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STATE

Radio, No 2, 1950.

## RADIO IN THE SERVICE OF THE SOVIET ARMED FORCES

A. Novinitskiy, Maj Gen Signal Communication Troops

On the eve of the war, the Soviet radio industry developed the remarkable "RB" radio equipment which far surpassed all analogous foreign military radio sets in operating and technical characteristics. This set successfully passed the severe tests of the battlefields and earned the praise of Soviet radio operators and unit commanders.

Prior to the war, the radio industry mastered the necessary techniques for ensuring mass production of radios for tanks, aircraft, and other branches of the armed forces. Up to 1941 our designers and radio plants had produced in all about ten types of military radios. The Soviet Armed Forces entered the war well equipped with modern means of radio communication. The results of many years of work in developing and improving army radio communications reached their full expression in the war years. During the war, the value of radio as a means of communication reached an unprecedented level in the Soviet Army.

On the famous Stalingrad battlefield, Soviet forces set up, in all, about 9,000 radio stations, while in offensive operations to liberate Belorussia, they made use of over 27,000 radio sets. On the historic Berlin battlefield an even greater number was used.

In radio equipment as well as in other forms of war materiel the Soviet Army was far superior to the German Army. Our army was not only fully supplied with means for radio communications but had large stocks in reserve. By the second half of the war, the German Army, for which the greatest radio plants of Western Europe had been working, began to experience a great shortage in radio equipment. The commanders were obliged to take out of storage radio sets which were obviously out-of-date and often would not operate properly.

The superiority of our radio industry did not show up merely in the vast numbers of radio sets delivered regularly to the front. Soviet radio specialists and workers found ways of increasing the high quality of our domestic radio sets which made them superior to those of foreign armies. Thus, German

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radios of the "Torn-FU-B," "F," and other types could only assure communication at distances not exceeding 15 kilometers; similar American and English equipment, at even shorter distances. But our Soviet radio operators established stable communications at 70 or more kilometers with the "RB" sets by using highly efficient antennas. As compared with foreign radios, the "RB" was more compact, lighter, and very economical in electric power consumption.

The enormous stocks of radio equipment for the armed forces in the war required mass training of a great number of qualified radio specialists. Special schools and courses were established and the decoration of "Excellent Radio Operator" was instituted. Thousands of excellent radio specialists were trained right on the battle fields.

In recent years radio operators, like all armed forces, have been broaden ing their military, political, and technical knowledge, and strengthening their military discipline and organization. Many radio designers and specialists have been awarded Stalin Prizes for new types of apparatus. Their achivements are being watched with great satisfaction by the radio operators who consider it their duty to master the latest equipment available, and to assure its reliable performance even under the most difficult conditions.

They also take great pride in the creative ability of radio amateurs and Dosarm members. The organization of volunteer societies to aid the Army, Navy, and Air Force shows the admiration and support of millions of workers for their Armed Forces. The efforts put forth by these societies to spread knowledge on military matters and on short-wave techniques among the masses is a great aid to the armed forces and the defense of the country.

A great many ex-radio amateurs are now in the signal corps. Before enlistment, they were active members of radio clubs and circles, shortwave operators, and designers of amateur radio installations. Many of them are now taking courses in military communications schools and are preparing to become radio officers in the Soviet Armed Forces.

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